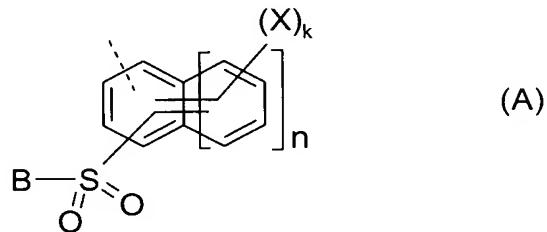


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 (Currently Amended): A process for dyeing leather, comprising contacting said leather with a float that comprises at least one dye F which has at least one group represented by formula A:



where

---- denotes the bond to the dye molecule;

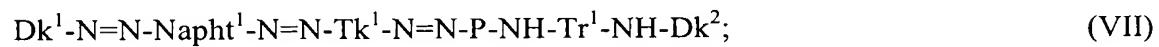
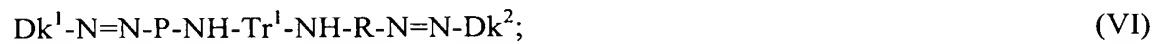
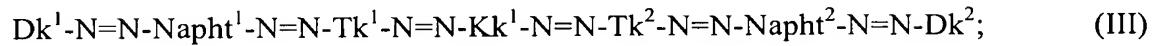
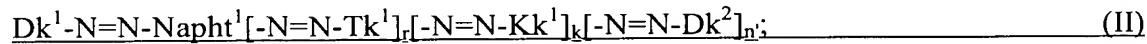
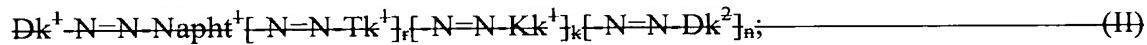
X is an electron-attracting radical;

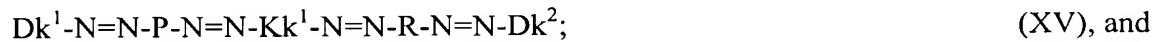
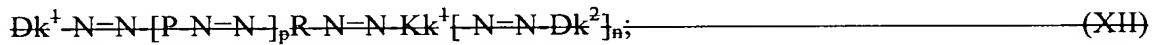
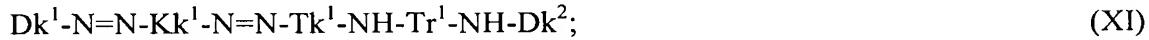
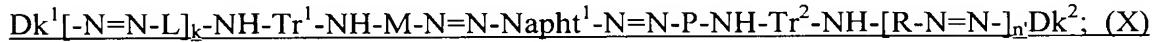
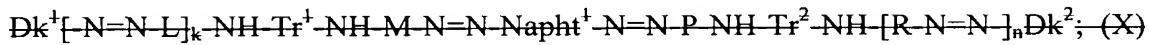
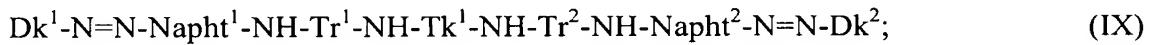
k is 1, 2 or 3;

n is 0 or 1; and

B is a $\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2$ group or a $\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{Q}$ group, where Q is an alkaline-detachable group, wherein said float exhibits a pH of from 8.5 to 11, and wherein

said at least one dye is selected from the group consisting of





a metal complex thereof,

where

k , n , n' , p and r are independently 0 or 1, and for formula II, $k+n+r$ is 1, 2 or 3;

m is 0, 1 or 2;

each of Dk^1 and Dk^2 independently represents an aromatic amine radical or represents a group of formula A where, in each of the formulae I - XII and XV, at least one of Dk^1 and Dk^2 represents a radical of formula A;

each of Kk^1 and Kk^2 independently represents a monovalent, a divalent or a trivalent aromatic radical selected from the group consisting of benzene; naphthalene; pyrazole; quinoline; diphenylamine; diphenylmethane; pyrimidine; pyridine; and diphenyl ether, where each optionally has at least one substituent selected from the group consisting

SO_3H , $COOH$, CN , $CONH_2$, OH , NH_2 , NO_2 , halogen, C_1-C_4 -alkyl, C_1-C_4 -hydroxyalkyl, carboxy- C_1-C_4 -alkyl, C_1-C_4 -alkoxy, C_1-C_4 -alkylamino, C_1-C_4 -dialkylamino, C_1-C_4 -alkylaminocarbonyl, C_1-C_4 -dialkylaminocarbonyl, C_1-C_4 -

alkylcarbonylamino, N-(C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyl)-N-(C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyl)amino, C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyloxy, C₁-C₄-dialkylaminocarbonyloxy, C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonylamino, C₁-C₄-dialkylaminocarbonylamino, phenylaminocarbonyloxy, phenylaminocarbonylamino, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonylamino, C₁-C₄-hydroxy-C₁-C₄-alkylamino, carboxy-C₁-C₄-alkylamino, phenylcarbonylamino, C₁-C₄-alkylsulfonyl, hydroxy-C₁-C₄-alkylsulfonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylaminosulfonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylsulfonylamino, phenylsulfonyl, phenylsulfonylamino, formamide, and a radical represented by formula SO₂NR⁵⁶R⁵⁷, where each of R⁵⁶ and R⁵⁷ independently represent hydrogen; C₁-C₄-alkyl; formyl; C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyl; C₁-C₄-alkyloxycarbonyl; NH₂-CO-alkylaminocarbonyl; C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl; C₁-C₄-alkylaminosulfonylamino; di-C₁-C₄-alkylaminosulfonylamino; phenylsulfonylamino which may be substituted on the phenyl ring by 1 or 2 substituents selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy and halogen; or a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclyl, which is optionally substituted by 1, 2 or 3 radicals selected from the group consisting of OH, halogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-phenyl, and a 5-membered aromatic heterocyclyl optionally bearing on the nitrogen a phenyl or naphthyl group which can optionally have 1 or 2 radicals selected from the group consisting of OH, SO₃H, C₁-C₄-alkyl, and C₁-C₄-alkoxy; Kk³ is a monovalent radical selected from the group consisting of benzene, pyrimidine, pyridine, and naphthalene, which optionally has 1 or 2 hydroxysulfonyl groups as substituents,

and optionally 1, 2 or 3 further substituents selected from the group consisting of SO_3H , COOH , CN , CONH_2 , OH , NH_2 , NO_2 , halogen, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkyl}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-hydroxyalkyl}$, carboxy- $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkyl}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkoxy}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkylamino}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-dialkylamino}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkylaminocarbonyl}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-dialkylaminocarbonyl}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkylcarbonylamino}$, $\text{N}(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkylcarbonyl})\text{-N}(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkylcarbonyl})\text{amino}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkylaminocarbonyloxy}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-dialkylaminocarbonyloxy}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkylaminocarbonylamino}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-dialkylaminocarbonylamino}$, phenylaminocarbonyloxy, phenylaminocarbonylamino, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkoxycarbonylamino}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-hydroxy-C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkylamino}$, carboxy- $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkylamino}$, phenylcarbonylamino, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkylsulfonyl}$, hydroxy- $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkylsulfonyl}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkylaminosulfonyl}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkylsulfonylamino}$, phenylsulfonyl, phenylsulfonylamino, formamide, and a radical of the formula $\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^{56}\text{R}^{57}$,

where R^{56} and R^{57} independently represent hydrogen; $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkyl}$; formyl; $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkylcarbonyl}$; $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkoxycarbonyl}$; $\text{NH}_2\text{-CO-alkylaminocarbonyl}$; $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkylaminocarbonyl}$; $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkylaminosulfonylamino}$; di- $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkylaminosulfonylamino}$; phenylsulfonylamino which may be substituted on the phenyl ring by 1 or 2 substituents selected from the group consisting of $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkyl}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkoxy}$ and halogen; or a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclyl, which is optionally substituted by 1, 2 or 3 radicals selected from the group consisting of OH , halogen, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkyl}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-phenyl}$, and a 5-membered aromatic heterocyclyl optionally bearing on the nitrogen a phenyl or naphthyl group which can optionally comprise 1 or 2 radicals selected from the group consisting of OH , SO_3H , $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkyl}$, and $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkoxy}$;

each of Tk^1 and Tk^2 independently represents a divalent aromatic radical selected from ~~the~~

the group consisting of benzene, diphenylamine, biphenyl, diphenylmethane, 2-phenylbenzimidazole, phenylsulfonylbenzene, phenylaminosulfonylbenzene, stilbene and phenylaminocarbonylbenzene, where each optionally has at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of SO_3H , $COOH$, OH , NH_2 , NO_2 , halogen, and C_1-C_4 -alkyl;

each of L, M, P and R independently represents a divalent aromatic radical selected from the

group consisting of benzene and naphthalene, where each optionally has at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of SO_3H , $COOH$, CN , $CONH_2$, OH , NH_2 , NO_2 , halogen, C_1-C_4 -alkyl, C_1-C_4 -hydroxyalkyl, carboxy- C_1-C_4 -alkyl, C_1-C_4 -alkoxy, C_1-C_4 -alkylamino, C_1-C_4 -dialkylamino, C_1-C_4 -alkylaminocarbonyl, C_1-C_4 -dialkylaminocarbonyl, C_1-C_4 -alkylcarbonylamino, $N-(C_1-C_4$ -alkylcarbonyl)- $N-(C_1-C_4$ -alkylcarbonyl)amino, C_1-C_4 -alkylaminocarbonyloxy, C_1-C_4 -dialkylaminocarbonyloxy, C_1-C_4 -alkylaminocarbonylamino, C_1-C_4 -dialkylaminocarbonylamino, phenylaminocarbonyloxy, phenylaminocarbonylamino, C_1-C_4 -alkoxycarbonylamino, C_1-C_4 -hydroxy- C_1-C_4 -alkylamino, carboxy- C_1-C_4 -alkylamino, phenylcarbonylamino, C_1-C_4 -alkylsulfonyl, hydroxy- C_1-C_4 -alkylsulfonyl, C_1-C_4 -alkylaminosulfonyl, C_1-C_4 -alkylsulfonylamino, phenylsulfonyl, phenylsulfonylamino, formamide, and a radical of the formula $SO_2NR^{56}R^{57}$,

where R^{56} and R^{57} independently represent hydrogen; C_1-C_4 -alkyl; formyl;

C_1-C_4 -alkylcarbonyl; C_1-C_4 -alkoxycarbonyl; NH_2-CO -alkylaminocarbonyl;

C_1-C_4 -alkylaminocarbonyl; C_1-C_4 -alkylaminosulfonylamino; di- C_1-C_4 -

alkylaminosulfonylamino; phenylsulfonylamino which may be substituted on

the phenyl ring by 1 or 2 substituents selected from the group consisting of

C_1-C_4 -alkyl, C_1-C_4 -alkoxy and halogen; or 5- or 6-membered heterocyclyl,

which is optionally substituted by 1, 2 or 3 radicals selected from the group consisting of OH, halogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, phenyl, and a 5-membered aromatic heterocyclyl optionally bearing on the nitrogen a phenyl or naphthyl group which can optionally have 1 or 2 of radicals selected from the group consisting of OH, SO₃H, C₁-C₄-alkyl, and C₁-C₄-alkoxy;

Napht¹, Napht² independently represent a naphthalene radical having 1 or 2 hydroxysulfonyl groups and may optionally have 1, 2 or 3 further substituents selected from the group consisting of OH, NH₂, C₁-C₄-alkylamino, C₁-C₄-dialkylamino, C₁-C₄-alkylsulfonylamino, phenylsulfonylamino, 4-methylphenylsulfonylamino, C₁-C₄-alkylaminosulfonyl, di-C₁-C₄-alkylaminosulfonyl, phenylaminosulfonyl, 4-methylphenylaminosulfonyl, and a NHC(O)R^x radical, where R^x hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, maleyl or phenyl;

Pyr represents pyrazole-1,4-diyl which attaches through the nitrogen atom to the A group and optionally has 1 or 2 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, hydroxyl and C₁-C₄-alkoxy; and

Tr¹, Tr² independently represent a 1,3,5-triazine-2,4-diyl radical which optionally has at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a methyl group and a methoxy group.

2 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein at least one radical X in the formula A is an SO₃H group.

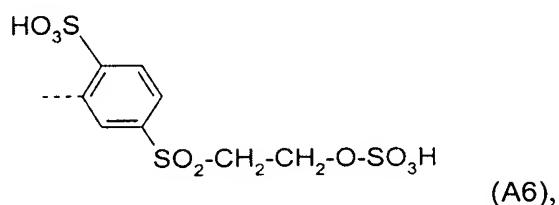
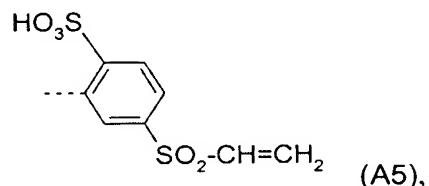
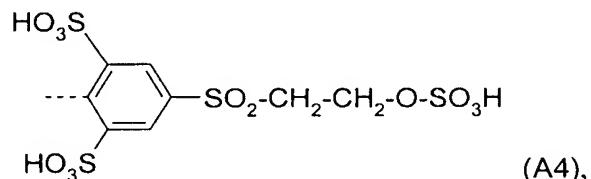
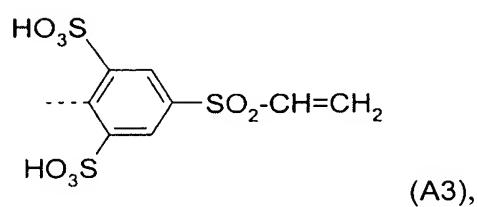
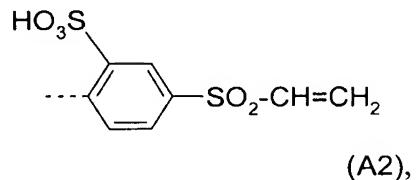
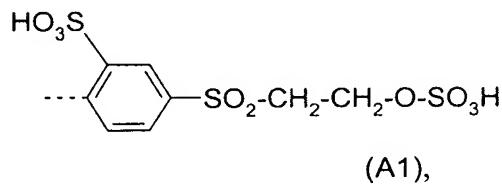
3 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein B in the formula A is CH=CH₂, a CH₂-CH₂-O-SO₃H group or a CH₂-CH₂-O-C(O)CH₃ group.

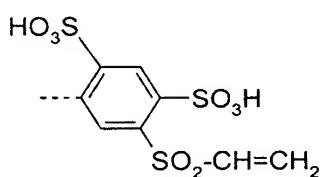
4 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the group represented by formula A is attached to the dye molecule via an -NH- or -N=N- group.

5 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 4, wherein the at least one dye F is selected from the group consisting of a phthalocyanine dye, an anthraquinone dye, an azo dye, a formazan dye, a dioxazine dye, an actidine dye, a xanthene dye, a polymethine dye, a stilbene dye, a sulfur dye and a triarylmethane dye.

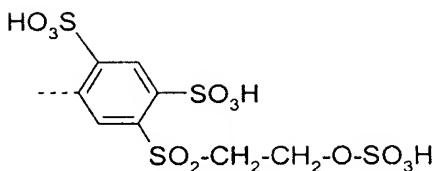
6 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein n is 0.

7 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 6, wherein the at least one group represented by formula A is selected from the group consisting of:

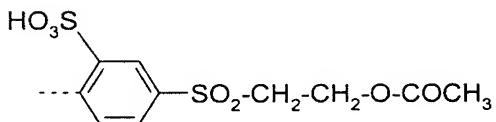




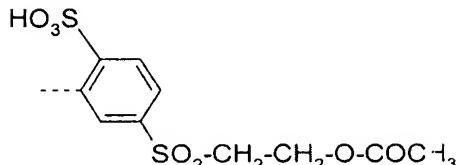
(A7),



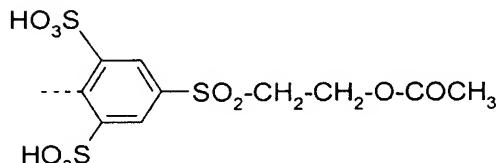
(A8),



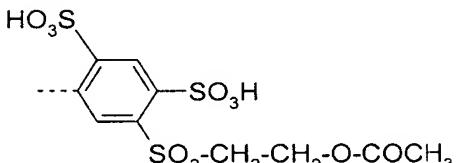
(A9),



(A10),



(A11), and



(A12).

8 (Cancelled)

9 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1, which further comprises initially treating the leather with ~~the~~ an aqueous float comprising at least one dye F at a pH in the range from 3 to 6.5 prior to said treating contacting.

10 (Cancelled)

11 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the dyeing occurs before retanning.

12 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the dyeing occurs at temperatures in the range from 10 to 60°C.

13-18 (Cancelled)

19 (Previously Presented): A dyed leather obtainable by a dyeing process according to claim 1.

20 (Previously Presented): The dyed leather according to Claim 19 for handwear, footwear, automobiles, apparel or furniture.

21-23 (Cancelled)

24 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein said float exhibits a pH of from 8.5 to 10.5.

25 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein said float exhibits a pH of from 8.5 to 10.

26 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein said float exhibits a pH of from 9.5 to 11.

27 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 26, occurring for a time of from 0.5 to 2 hours.

28 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein when said contacting is carried out for four hours, said at least one dye exhibits a fixation to said leather of at least 85%, as determined by UV/VIS spectroscopy and HPLC.

29 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein when said contacting is carried out for four hours, said at least one dye exhibits a fixation to said leather of at least 90%, as determined by UV/VIS spectroscopy and HPLC.

30 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein Q is selected from the group consisting of chlorine; bromine; iodine; $-O-SO_3H$; $-S-SO_3H$; tri- C_1-C_4 -alkylammonium; benzylid- C_1-C_4 -alkylammonium; N-attached pyridinium; $R^3S(O)_2-$; $R^4S(O)_2-O-$; and $R^5C(O)-O-$, where

each of R^3 and R^4 is independently an alkyl group, a haloalkyl group, a phenyl group, or a substituted phenyl group, and

R^5 is a hydrogen, an alkyl group, a haloalkyl group, a phenyl group, or a substituted phenyl group.

31 (New): The process according to claim 1, wherein n in the group represented by formula A is 1.

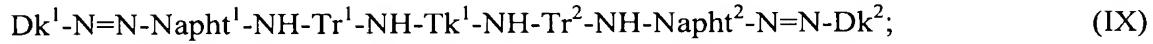
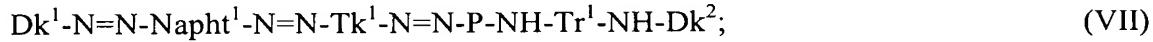
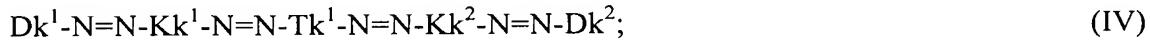
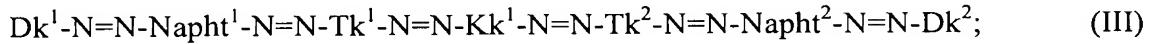
32 (New): The process according to claim 31, wherein B in the formula A is $CH=CH_2$, a $CH_2-CH_2-O-SO_3H$ group or a $CH_2-CH_2-O-C(O)CH_3$ group.

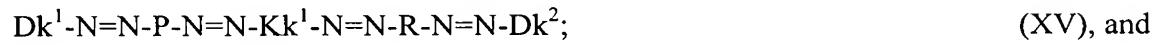
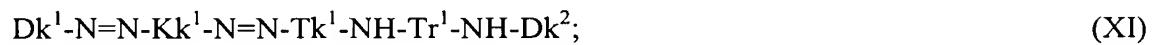
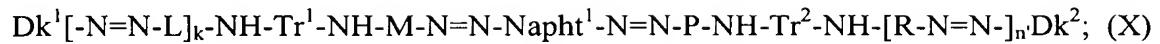
33 (New): The process according to claim 1, wherein Dk^1 and Dk^2 are independently of each other selected from the group consisting of benzene-, naphthalene- and quinoline-derived radicals and 1-phenylpyrazol-4-yl which are unsubstituted or comprise 1, 2 or 3, substituents selected from the group consisting of SO_3H , $COOH$, OH , NH_2 , NO_2 , CN , $CONH_2$, halogen, C_1-C_4 -alkyl, C_1-C_4 -hydroxyalkyl, carboxy- C_1-C_4 -alkyl, C_1-C_4 -alkoxy, C_1-C_4 -alkylamino, C_1-C_4 -dialkylamino, C_1-C_4 -alkylaminocarbonyl,

C₁-C₄-dialkylaminocarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyloxy, C₁-C₄-dialkylamino-carbonyloxy, C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonylamino, C₁-C₄-dialkylaminocarbonylamino, phenylaminocarbonyloxy, phenylaminocarbonylamino, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonylamino, C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonylamino, N-(C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyl)-N-(C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyl)amino, C₁-C₄-hydroxy-C₁-C₄-alkylamino, carboxy-C₁-C₄-alkylamino, phenylcarbonylamino, C₁-C₄-alkylsulfonyl, C₁-C₄-hydroxyalkylsulfonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylaminosulfonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylsulfonylamino, phenylsulfonyl, phenylsulfonylamino, formamide, and SO₂NR⁵⁶R⁵⁷, where

R⁵⁶ and R⁵⁷ independently represent hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, formyl, C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl, NH₂-CO, C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl or 5- or 6-membered heterocycl, which is optionally substituted by 1, 2 or 3 of OH, halogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl or phenyl radicals, 5-membered aromatic heterocycl optional bearing on the nitrogen a phenyl or naphthyl group which phenyl or naphthyl group are unsubstituted or which comprise one or two of the following radicals: OH, SO₃H, C₁-C₄-alkyl, and/or C₁-C₄-alkoxy.

34 (New): The process according to claim 1, wherein said at least one dye is selected from the group consisting of





a metal complex thereof,

where k, n', p and r are independently 0 or 1, and m is 0, 1 or 2.